

# Attention MassHealth Members

## Hospital Copayment

*Rules effective February 1, 2004*

As of February 1, 2004, you will be charged MassHealth copayments for the following hospital services, unless you are excluded from the copayment requirement:

- \$3 when you use an **emergency department when it is not an emergency**; and
- \$3 for **acute inpatient hospital stays**.

**If you are unable to pay a copayment at the time of service, the hospital must still provide treatment. However, the copayment is still your responsibility, and the hospital can bill you for the copayment.**

**You will not have to pay a MassHealth copayment** for any service covered by MassHealth if:

- you are under 19 years old;
- you are pregnant;
- your pregnancy ended and you are within the postpartum period that extends through the last day of the second calendar month after the month in which your pregnancy ended;
- you are getting benefits under MassHealth Limited (emergency MassHealth);
- you are an inpatient in a nursing facility, chronic-disease or rehabilitation hospital, or intermediate-care facility for the mentally retarded, or are admitted to a hospital from such a facility;
- you are getting EAEDC (Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children) Program services, and are not covered under MassHealth Basic, Essential, or Standard;
- you are getting hospice care; or
- you have reached your copayment cap for that service.

**Also, you do not have to pay a MassHealth copayment for:**

- family-planning services;
- emergency services;
- acute inpatient hospital services when you have other comprehensive medical insurance, including Medicare;
- mental health or substance abuse-related services provided by a hospital; or
- Medicare-covered drugs at a pharmacy that is a certified provider for Medicare, if you are getting benefits under MassHealth Senior Buy-In (MassHealth and Medicare) or under MassHealth Standard.

If the hospital charges you a copayment and you do not think you have to pay because you meet one of the exclusions, be sure to tell the hospital.

If you are enrolled with Fallon, NHP, Network Health, or BMC HealthNet Plan through MassHealth, you must follow your health plan's copayment rules. Currently, there are no MassHealth copayments for hospital services if you are enrolled with one of the above health plans. You will be responsible for copayments for any outpatient pharmacy services, however.

**If you have questions** about the copayment policy, call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at **1-800-841-2900**

**(TTY: 1-800-497-4648** for people with partial or total hearing loss). The lines are open between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

If you are enrolled with one of the above health plans through MassHealth and you have questions about the copayment policy, please contact the customer service center at your health plan.

